

# HAMPTON VA NEWS RELEASE

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## Special Council Meeting to Consider Crackdown on Crime Measures

**July 12, 2013** –A special City Council meeting will be held Tuesday, July 16, at the request of the city manager, to consider measures that would help police and other departments crack down on crime.

Crime in Hampton has been decreasing for several years, according to police data. In fact, there have been 12% decreases in both violent crimes and property crimes year-to-date, compared with 2012. However, shootings have spiked in recent weeks, most recently with two very young children shot late Wednesday.

“This is not the kind of community that Hampton is, and we will not tolerate these kinds of illegal acts,” said City Manager Mary Bunting. “We intend to take swift action.”

Council will be asked to consider several immediate measures to help police be more proactive and to increase police presence in neighborhoods and known hotspots. In addition, they will be asked to fund some new technology – including surveillance cameras and better Internet capability for patrol cars. Other proposals include such things as stepped-up codes enforcement and increased neighborhood outreach and support. Full details on the proposals are still being prepared.

The meeting, which is open to the public, will begin at noon in City Council Chambers on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor of City Hall, 22 Lincoln St. It will be broadcast on the city’s cable station and live streamed on the Internet at [hampton.gov/citycouncil](http://hampton.gov/citycouncil). The Mayor’s Chat, normally held online at noon on Tuesdays, will instead feature live blogging from the meeting.

“Violent crime of any type, especially when it involves innocent victims, is intolerable,” said Police Chief Thomas Townsend. “We are committed to bringing those who commit crime to justice and will utilize all the resources at our disposal to do so. We are also committed to being part of the communitywide effort to address the complex underlying causes of violent crime.”

This increased public safety action occurs in tandem with efforts by a volunteer group looking at broader ways the community can address and prevent youth violence in the long term. The leaders of that effort – Steve Brown, chair of the Community Services Board, and Tommy Southall, chair of the Neighborhood Commission – will provide an update on those efforts at Tuesday’s council meeting. To find out more or to volunteer, go to [hampton.gov/youthviolence](http://hampton.gov/youthviolence).

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